

Newsletter and Plan

September to November 2019



**KIRKBY STEPHEN, APPLEBY
& TEBAY METHODIST CIRCUIT**



Cumbria District (09/07)

‘Our mission is to know Jesus and make him known’

From the Manse

Hebrews Ch 12 v 2–3 says, “Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary or lose heart!”

As we begin a new Methodist year it is good to reflect on Jesus, the author of our faith and salvation. To fix our eyes on Jesus means to look intently on the one, our God, who lived His life – an example of grace and truth and who died for love of us – and who rose again. Hallelujah, what a Saviour! Let us look to Jesus for strength and wisdom and grace for each new day.

Each morning when I throw back the curtains in the lounge of the Manse, I look at the stained glass cross hanging in the window, the light glinting off its blue and green glass and I look beyond to the Nine Standards (if I can see them!) and then beyond as I repeat to myself the words of Psalm 121 “I lift my eyes to the hills – where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord..... He will not let your foot slip ... He will not sleep ... the Lord will keep you from all harm – He will watch over your life ... for evermore”

These words would have been sung by the pilgrims in Jerusalem on the way to the Festivals; said by Jesus, too, as he looked onto the city of God. And our faith is founded on ‘the Lord’ – Jesus, the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.

Eddie Askew reflects on the words of Psalm 121 in his book “Many Voices”. Eddie owns a 14th century illustrated manuscript with the words of this Psalm on them, words which are timeless, giving him comfort in times of challenge and change. He writes:

“Lord sometimes I feel vulnerable and alone standing in a wasteland! But then I see behind me, around me, men and women who have lived their lives in the faith I hold in Jesus Christ.

Those who have lived and died in the wonder and mystery of your love, if I met them now I’d find their lives based on the unending truth of your word! Their hopes and fears bound up in you Lord Jesus, the same Lord, the same salvation, the same Saviour, the same forever!”

Lord it is good to know that I/we are a part of your enduring purposes, each person seen, loved, acknowledged and held together in Christ Jesus.

In Romans Ch 12 v 5 – “So in Christ we who are many form one body” – Paul is reminding us that it is in Jesus alone that we find our true identity and in Christ Jesus alone we are held together in love and faith.

The words of Psalm 121 remind me of God’s steadfastness, faithfulness, glory, greatness and His mercy and love. We need to be constantly reminded of the Majesty of our God, as we face the trials and troubles of our world.

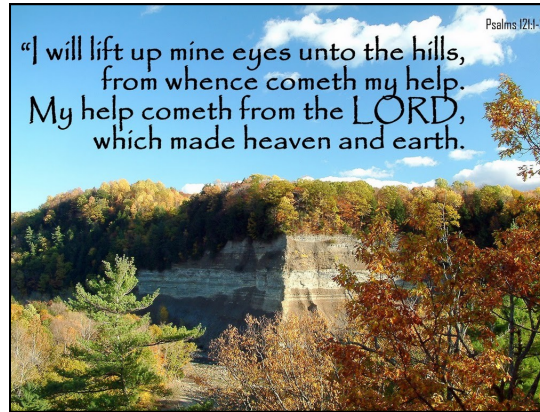
We have had many opportunities to thank God for answered prayer recently, in particular for those who have been ill, but also for grace and healing for those who have been through times of sadness and loss.

Stuart Townend in his version of Psalm 23 writes in the chorus:

“And I will trust in You alone,
And I will trust in You alone,
For Your endless mercy follows me,
Your goodness will lead me home.”

Trusting in God, trusting in His grace, trusting in His love, in the middle of his troubles, the writer of Lamentations sees a shaft of light – “Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed for His compassions never fail”.

As autumn approaches the greens of summer turn to gold, orange and brown and we move to a season of surrender – the leaves falling, the dew settling on the cobwebs among the hedgerows, the sheep are gathered in and some are sold. Another year of harvest, the cycle of God’s creation draws towards winter. Can we learn from the cycle of the year, each season a time of transition? We long for permanence, security and stability but in this world we see change and perhaps decay – but only in God can we find that security we crave.



So the writer of Hebrews says “Let us fix our eyes on Jesus”. Trust Jesus in the flow of life, for life does not stand still and yet we are held in infinitely compassionate hands marked with the love that saved us, hands we need to trust as we surrender to the grace that is carrying us and let the God of love build us together in unity, truth and love.

My reading for today is from Revelation Ch 19 v 1 – 10, four times “Hallelujah” rings out in the words as salvation and judgement are seen. Salvation, glory and power belongs to God, His judgements are true and just. Jesus Christ knows our hearts and minds, He judges without partiality or prejudice – He is good enough to give a perfect verdict and wise enough to apply it appropriately. Today, and all your days, trust in God, in Jesus Christ and God’s unfolding purpose, counting your blessings and giving God all the praise and all the honour!

“Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,
In the light of His glory and grace. “

“Our mission is to know Jesus and make Him known!”

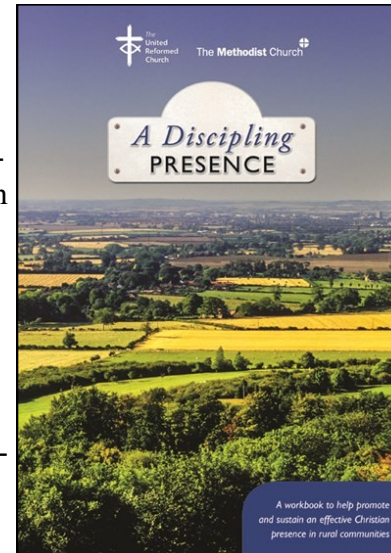
Rev Stephen

DISCIPLING PRESENCE

This workbook published in 2017 encourages churches in rural areas to look at how best they can be a Discipling Presence in their local communities . I have used the workbook with Ravenstonedale Chapel and both myself and members of the group have found it an inspiring experience. I would now like to use it in other churches in the circuit.

There are eight sessions to the course which can be done on a fortnightly or monthly basis each session taking about an hour. Workbooks are available (could be borrowed from Ravenstonedale) but not essential. Each session is complete in itself but ideally folks would commit to coming for as much of the course as possible.

Also, although we all benefit from the course as individuals; it is meant to be something which several people from a church look at together, so would need to have at least half of the membership taking part if membership was less than 20, and at least a third if membership was more than 20.



Something to think about at autumn church councils?

Jackie Betts

We would like to welcome Rev Clive Hicks as the new Rector of the Benefice of the Heart of Eden in the Carlisle Diocese. He will be living in Appleby and will be a part of the "Heart of Westmorland Mission Community".

We would also like to welcome Rachel Milburn as the Network Youth Church worker for this area.

We pray that God will richly bless them in their ministry and look forward to working with them in the future.

Bible Study/House Groups take place in a number of our churches.

We have listed a few of these below, if you would like more details then please contact the person named for each church.

Appleby housegroup – every other Thursday at 7.30pm – contact Linda 017683 53448

Appleby housegroup – weekly on Thursday at 10 am – contact Jean or Tony 017683 51706

Crosby Garrett/Soulby – there is an interdenominational monthly group which meets on the first Tuesday of the month in Soulby Village Hall.

Dufton – for details of the Bible Studies please contact Avril 017683 53102 or Wendy 017683 52865

Kirkby Stephen – Autumn Bible Studies at Kirkby Stephen
'OT Lessons from Sunday School'
Starting at the beginning of September.
Tuesday ,50 South Rd at 10am for 10.30am
Wednesday in the Vestry at Kirkby Stephen Methodist at 7.30pm.
For dates and more details please contact Heather Tel 71202

Newbiggin on Lune – Housegroups will start again on Tuesday 10th September at 7.30 pm. The venues each week will be shared amongst those willing and able to host them. They will be held fortnightly. Subjects for thought and discussion are yet to be confirmed but will be topical and will have come from the Alpha Course that was studied earlier in the year, and the subsequent discussion that followed each session. Also some subjects that have been requested by individuals as wanting to discuss and think about. All are very welcome.

Orton – a Bible study is held fortnightly on a Thursday in the Autumn/Winter months. Please contact Rowland for further details 015396 24372



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Staff Rest Days**Ministers**

Rev Stephen Radford

Friday

Rev Andrew Sterling

Monday (Rest day)

Wednesday (Study day)

Circuit Administrator

Mrs Avril Swinbank

Friday, Saturday, Sunday

Circuit Connexion Services

1st September

Appleby– Rev T Cooke

13th October

Newbiggin – Farnworth and Worsley choir

10th November

Kirkby Stephen

Website Addresses

Circuit Website

www.ksaandtcircuit.org.uk

Methodist Church Website

www.methodist.org.uk

Cumbria District Methodist Website

www.cumbriamethodistdistrict.org.uk

If you are on Facebook please “Like” our Kirkby Stephen, Appleby & Tebay
Methodist Circuit page and keep up to date with our latest news!



A Student's Prayer for a New School Year

Lord Jesus, I ask for Your help as I begin this new school year.
Allow me to experience Your presence in the many blessings You put before me.
Open my eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings.
Open my heart and mind to new friends and new teachers.
Give me a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with my studies and courage to accept new opportunities.
Help me to be attentive to my teachers and let me experience Your presence in my new friends.
Jesus, inspire me to do my best this year!

Amen



Back to School Prayer for School Staff

As I step into a new academic year
Restore my spirit
Renew my passion for sharing your wisdom
And nurture my compassion
for those You put in my charge.
Transform me as I seek to transform
Guide me as I seek to guide
Open my mind and heart
As I seek to open minds and hearts
To the Good News of justice and peace.
Help me listen more deeply
To the world and to your Word
So I can walk with my students
Attentive to the Wisdom that
Calls us all to the Kingdom of God.
Amen

Kirkby Stephen Methodist Church Refurbishment Fund

Harvest – Thinking of the Tour of Britain Bike Race coming through Kirkby Stephen from Gateshead to Kendal, on Tuesday 10 September, the Chapel will be decorated for the Harvest on the theme “The Wheels of Life”.

Do come and see the displays:

Saturday 7 September	10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Sunday 8 th September	1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Monday 9 th September	10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
(Harvest Supper at 7 p.m.)	
Tuesday 10 th September	10 a.m. – 4 p.m.



Refreshments available.

Teddies for tragedies

As a result of Joy Thomson's initiative to provide teddies for tragedies our local community has pulled together to provide over 100 teddies to date. This picture shows just some of them.



In 2018 30 teddies were taken from Brough to the dedication service in Musgrave church after Christmas.

This year the target was set at 100 – a little ambitious you may think - but on 1 August 2019 we already have 116 teddies ready and we still have five months of knitting time to go. Could it be that we will reach the magic number of 200?

If you would like to be part of this wonderful effort to provide sick and disadvantaged children with a teddy, please feel free to contact Heather Simpkins on 017683 42476 or email heather@heathersimpkins.com to see how you can help.

In addition to the teddies we need a little drawstring bag for them to travel in so if you can't knit, you may be willing to sew one of these.

Lectionary

1 st September	Jer 2:4-13 Psa 81:1, 10-16 Heb. 13:1-8, 15-16 Luke 14:1, 7-14
8 th September	Jer 18:1-11 Psa 139:1-6, 13-18 Philemon 1-21 Luke 14:25-33
15 th September	Jer 4:11-12, 22-28 Psa 14 1 Timothy 1:12-17 Luke 15:1-10
22 nd September	Jer 8:18 – 9:1 Psa 79:1-9 1 Timothy 2:1-7 Luke 16:1-13
29 th September	Jer 32:1-3a, 6-15 Psa 91:1-6, 14-16 1 Timothy 6:6-19 Luke 16:19-31
6 th October	Lamentations 1:1-6 Psa 137 2 Timothy 1:1-14 Luke 17:5-10
13 th October	Jer 29:1, 4-7 Psa 66:1-12 2 Timothy 2:8-15 Luke 17:11-19
20 th October	Jer 31:27-34 Psa 119:97-104 2 Timothy 3:14 – 4:5 Luke 18:1-8
27 th October	Joel 2:23-32 Psa 65 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 Luke 18:9-14
3 rd November	Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 Psa 119:137-144 2 Thess 1:1-4, 11-12 Luke 19:1-10
10 th November	Isa. 25:1-9 or Isa. 52:7-12 or Micah 4:1-8 Psa 9:9-20 or Psa 46 Romans 8:31-35, 37-39 or Rev 22:1-5 Matt. 5:1-12 or Matt. 5:43- 48 or John 15:9-17
17 th November	Isa. 65:17-25 Isa. 12:1-6 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 Luke 21:5-19
24 th November	Jer 23:1-6 Psa 46 Colossians 1:11-20 Luke 23:33-43

“Hub Club” - Alternate Thursdays during term time, 7.30 p.m.-9.00 p.m.at Kirkby Stephen
“Ignite” – a Bible Study/Discussion Group held at the home of Jonny and Debra Capstick for Year 12 and upwards. For more details please contact Jonny and Debra 015396 23141
“Valley Youth” - Worship group and speaker, followed by toast, age 13+
4th Saturday monthly 7.30 p.m. (except July, August, December) at Crosby Ravensworth

Please pray for our young people at schools, our youth and children’s work and those who lead it. For the Sunday Schools at Orton, Kirkby Stephen, Newbiggin on Lune, Appleby and Winton.

Circuit Calendar

August

31st 10.00 – 11.30 Tebay – Coffee Morning

September

4th 6.45 p.m.	Section Prayer Fellowship at Kirkby Stephen
7th 10.00 – 4.00	Kirkby Stephen – Coffee Morning & Afternoon refreshments
7th–10th 10.00–4.00	Kirkby Stephen – “Wheels of Life” viewing and refreshments
9th 7.00 p.m.	Kirkby Stephen – Harvest Supper– “Good News Singers”
14th 10.00 – 11.30	Brough – Coffee Morning
14th 12.00 p.m.	Tebay – Pie, Peas and Puddings
16th 7.00 p.m.	Brough Harvest Supper –after Supper speaker from KS Mountain Rescue Team
18th 6.45 p.m.	Section Prayer Fellowship at Kirkby Stephen
20th 7.00 p.m.	Nateby – Harvest Festival – “Cousins in Common “
21st 10.00 – 11.30	Brough Sowerby-Coffee Morning –McMillan Cancer Support
23rd 7.30 p.m.	Ravenstonedale-Harvest Thanksgiving-The Longton Family
28th 7.00 p.m.	Orton Harvest Thanksgiving – presentation by Martin and Pam Lawson on their life and mission work in Tunisia
28th 7.30 p.m.	Dufton Harvest Festival – “Middle Eden Voices”
30th 7.30 p.m.	Kings Meaburn Harvest Festival -”Ayrton Brothers”

October

2nd 6.45 p.m.	Section Prayer Fellowship at Kirkby Stephen
4th 7.30 p.m.	Crosby Garrett – Harvest supper in Village Hall
5th 10.00 – 11.30	Kirkby Stephen – Coffee Morning
7th 7.30 p.m.	Great Asby Harvest Festival – “The Lund Young People”
12th 10.00 – 11.30	Brough – Coffee Morning
14th 7.30 p.m.	Warcop – Harvest Festival – “The Ayrton Family”
16th 6.45 p.m.	Section Prayer Fellowship at Kirkby Stephen
24th 7.30 p.m.	Leprosy Mission Evening at Brough Sowerby with Paul Moores
26th 7.00 p.m.	Brough Chapel Anniversary – “Uredales” singing group from Leyburn

November

2nd 10.00 – 11.30	Kirkby Stephen – Coffee Morning
6th 6.45 p.m.	Section Prayer Fellowship at Kirkby Stephen
9th 10.00 – 11.30	Brough – Coffee Morning
15th 7.30 p.m.	Appleby-Come and hear about Samara Levy’s work and experience in Syria
20th 6.45 p.m.	Section Prayer Fellowship at Kirkby Stephen
30th 12.00-1.30	Kirkby Stephen – Soup and Sweet





PRAYER POINTS

“Pray like it’s as vital as breathing”

There is so much God wants to share with us, to show us and teach us, so pray constantly and be aware of God's presence in all things.

We Pray ;

Loving God, reach out into this broken world, and bring hope, help and healing.

Come and mend the divisions that tear us apart, the wounds inflicted by pride, greed, prejudice, corruption, hatred and mistrust – so much that separates person from person and nation from nation.

Break down the barriers we erect against those who are different from us, those whose views challenge our comfortable and complacent view of reality.

Where there is sickness and disease, bring healing.

Where minds are disturbed, give peace.

Where there is pain and suffering, grant relief.

Where there is yearning for meaning, offer guidance.

Through your healing touch, grant true wholeness deep within.

AMEN

We pray for our Governments, Politicians and Leaders, locally, nationally and internationally,

Lord of all, give them wisdom, integrity, courage, strength of purpose, compassion, and above all, a determination truly to serve others for the greater good.

AMEN

Teach us Lord, to make time to focus on you, to stand silently in your presence,

And quietly to marvel, to rejoice and to give thanks.

May the light of God

Illumine the heart of our souls.

May the flame of Christ kindle us to love.

May the fire of the Spirit free us to live

This day and forever. AMEN